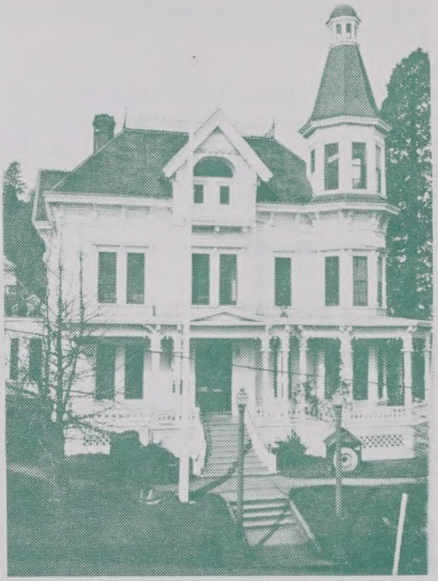
The Story Behind the Clatsop County Historical Center



Old Flavel Mansion
Eighth and Duane
Astoria, Oregon

History . . .

Capt. George Flavel, the mariner, shipping figure and capitalist who brought the Victorian age to bloom in Astoria, with the erection of this mansion, was one of the most remarkable men in the maritime history of the Pacific Coast. His record as a master and his skill and daring as a bar pilot was well known. His ability as a business man approached wizardry in the judgment of the day, for he had acquired a monopoly on piloting and towing at the bar in face of severe and ruthless competition from Portland capital.

Capt. Flavel's fame as a pilot was established by his heroism in connection with the wreck of the "General Warren", in 1852. This was the first steam vessel lost on the Columbia River bar. He was presented a gold medal by the people of Portland for his part in rescuing survivors.

Mrs. Flavel's parents were Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Boelling, pioneers of 1847. She was a little girl of 8 years when she came to the primitive village that was Astoria, and the family spent the first months in the only available shelter, "Shark House", a small and crude dwelling built by the survivors of the U. S. warship "Shark", wrecked on the bar in 1846. Her home remained Astoria for 80 years, and she ended her days in the finest mansion on the banks of the Lower Columbia River, surviving her husband many years. He died in 1893. There were three children — Nellie, Katie and George. Capt. Flavel built this magnificent residence at the height of his career. Designed by a San Francisco architect, this large Victorian house reflected the taste of the era which was lavish and prodigal. The pioneer captains of industry, shipping, logging and canning, having striven prodigiously in their

youth, wanted in their harvest years the grand homes and life that were then symbolic of success. Begun in 1883, it was completed a year or so later.

One of the outstanding features of this luxurious home was the number of elaborate mantels of choice woods. Fireplaces were a hobby of Capt. Flavel, who liked warmth, comfort and luxury. There are six fireplaces, all different. They are, of course, all Victorian in style, hand carved rosewood, mahogany, walnut and maple. Panelling in the rooms are of highly polished redwood with Philippine mahogany and other rare woods. Tilings of the six hearths are all imported, each from a different European or Asiatic country. From their many trips to San Francisco, New York and abroad, the Flavels brought handsome pieces of furniture and rare collections of bric-a-brac and statuary to beautify their home. Capt. Flavel was a patron of the arts as were many of the self-made western men of large wealth. He had a fine taste in paintings, his favorite subject being oil paintings of sailing ships at sea. He commissioned Cleveland Rockwell, famous marine painter of Portland, to do a large canvas of his own favorite vessel, the barkentine Jane A. Falkenberg, crossing the bar under full sail. As master, he established the all-time sailing ship record in a run from Astoria to San Francisco in three and a half days.

The house was continuously resided in by the Flavels, and descendants, until the death of the oldest daughter, Miss Nellie, in 1933. Her grandniece and heir, Miss Patricia Flavel, deeded the property to the County in the hope that it could be utilized as an historical center, and in turn, the County turned it over to the Clatsop County Historical Society which is responsible for restoring, furnishing, and maintaining the old mansion as an historical center and museum.

Clatsop County Historical Society

OPEN DAILY

12 NOON to 4 PM
Nov.-May

10 AM to 4:30 PM
June-Oct.

FLAVEL HOUSE

441 8th St.
Astoria, Oregon
325-2563 325-2203

Heritage Museum

Astoria's old City Hall, built in 1904, now a regional museum has popular rotating and permanent exhibits. They deal with the natural history, geology, Native Americans, early pioneers, immigrants, and settlers of the area as well as logging and fishing along the Columbia River.

Heritage Museum, 1618 Exchange St.

Uppertown Firefighters Museum

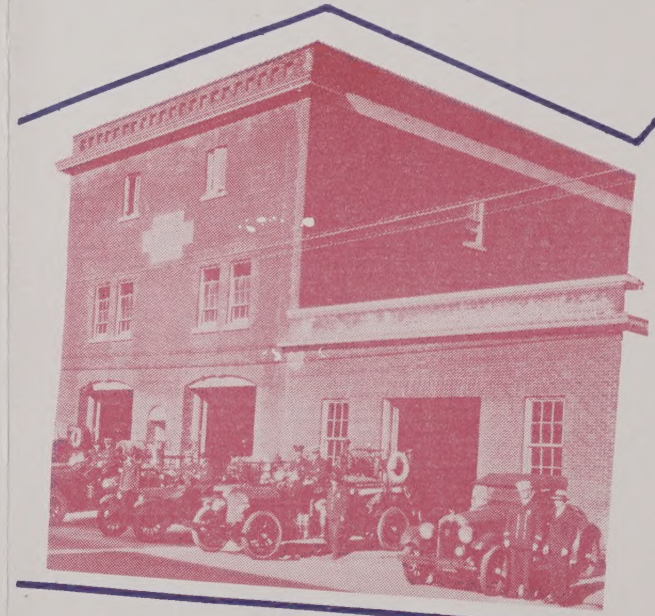
This museum has an extensive collection of fire fighting equipment that ranges from 1877 to 1963. There are hand pulled, horse drawn, motorized fire engines, and fire fighting memorabilia and photos to see.
A great favorite for kids of all ages.

CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Flavel House

Experience the luxury and elegance of this 1885 Victorian home of entrepreneurial bar pilot Captain George Flavel.

The home's large, high ceilinged rooms with exotic woodwork are accented by furnishings, decorations and fine art that would have been found in the Flavel House a century ago.



Uppertown Firefighters Museum
2986 Marine Drive

Three

Astoria, Oregon

A Place with a Past

Flavel House
441 8th Street

Museums

As the center of international exploration, trade, and the site of the rich, complex culture of the Clatsop Indians, Clatsop County holds a wide range of interesting history.

In keeping the past present Clatsop County Historical Society has three museums that allow one to step back in time and experience the county's rich history.

Astoria Oregon

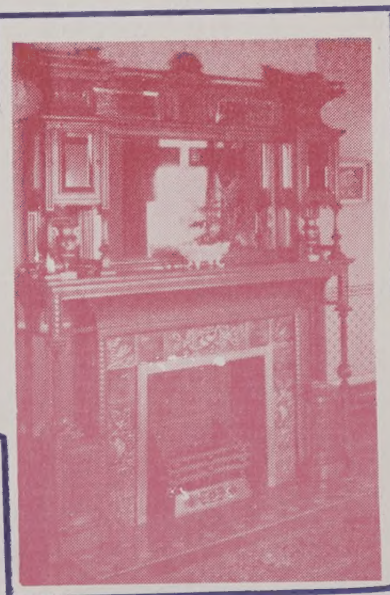
Flavel House and Heritage Museums
OPEN EVERY DAY
(except Thanksgiving, Christmas, & New Years)

10 am - 5 pm May through September
11 am - 4 pm October through April
To arrange group tours or for more information call (503) 325-2203
Uppertown Firefighters Museum same hours but Friday through Sunday ONLY

The North Oregon Coast has many attractions within a few miles and offers incomparable beaches, sailing, fishing, as well as fascinating history.

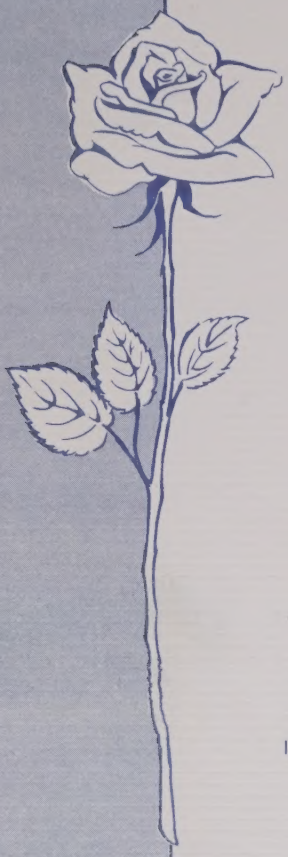
Astoria is known as a "museum without walls." The prominence of Victorian architecture entices vistors on walking tours.

On exhibit at the Uppertown Firefighters Museum is this 1878 Hayes Ladder Truck.



One of six different fireplace mantels, located in the historic Flavel House Museum, each carved out of a different hardwood, and each accented by a different tile imported from Europe or Asia.

A rare Chinese Tong Altar exhibited in the Heritage Museum is reflective of the international nature of the North Oregon Coast.



The FLAVEL HOUSE
ROSE GARDEN
Dedication

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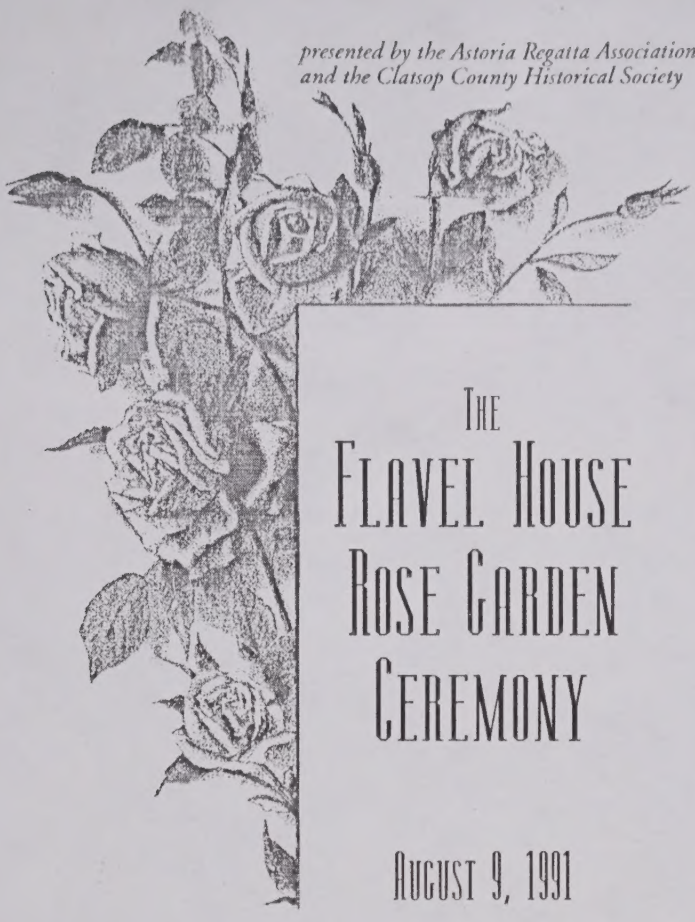
Musical selections by soloist Jan Sutherland, Liverpool, England, and the Oregon Jazz Band, under the direction of Dr. Bill Borcher.

Welcome to the Flavel House	Stephen Recken, *Curator Clatsop County Historical Society*
Introduction Honored Guests	Chuck Walters, *Regatta Association*
Planting of Diamond Jubilee Rose, "Golden Salute"	Portland *Royal Rosarians*
Remarks	Michael Lynch, *President Regatta Association*
Introduction	1983 Regatta Court
Song	"The Rose"
Introduction, May Miller, Honored Guest	Michael Foster, President *Clatsop County Historical Society.*
Introduction, Anchor Club	Carlotta Strandberg
Salute to The Anchors	Color Guard, *USS Implicit.*

ROSE GARDEN DONORS:

Dee Leahy, Jan D. Harrod, Greta Meyer, Irene Baltimore, Jeanne Pike, Colleen Hensley, Carlotta Strandberg, Pat Whitten, Marlene Taylor, Judy Vineyard, Marlene Mestrich for Carol Mestrich, Shelley Donithorne, Lois Ryding, Michael Lynch, Linda Lillard, The Kee Family, Shirley Telen, Vel Scheve, Marcie Overby, Aune Malmberg, Bill and Georgina Hutchens, Marilyn Ruth Birkel, Jean McNeeley, LeRoy Adolphson, Evelyn Hankel for Patricia Hankel, Blanche Mjelde, Jean Anderson for Kathleen Poindexter Lanzadoro, Michael Foster, Nancy Fulton Lowe, Jean Fastabend, Eleanor Norblad Sorrells, Marilyn Anderson, Astoria Kiwanis Club, Chris Bendickson in memory of his wife Jan Marie Bendickson.

Reminder: *Save October 7, 8 and 9 to attend the 1983 Oregon Dixieland Jubilee in Astoria, Seaside, Gearhart.*



presented by the Astoria Regatta Association and the Clatsop County Historical Society

The Flavel House Rose Garden Ceremony

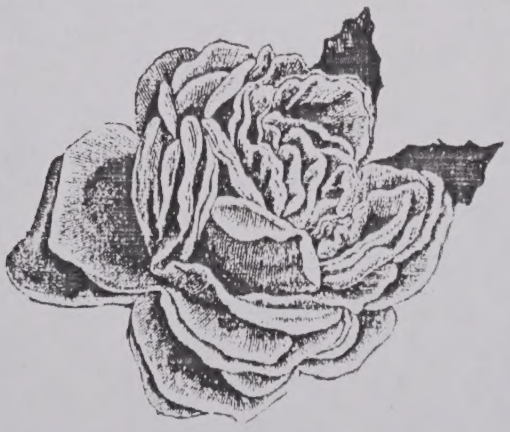
August 9, 1991

Welcome	Karen Broenneke, *Executive Director* *Clatsop County Historical Society*
Color Guard	United States Coast Guard *Astoria Air Station*
Master of Ceremonies	Michael Foster, *Director* *Clatsop County Historical Society*
Musical Selection	Jean Aarnio *Harpist*
Guests Introduction	Les McNary, *1991 President* *Astoria Regatta Association*
Rose Planting	assisted by The Royal Rosarians *Portland, Oregon*
Remarks	Willis Van Dusen, *Mayor* *City of Astoria*
	Craig Tutor, *1991 Regatta Admiral* *Oregon State Parks and Recreation*
Ballet Presentation	Little Ballet Theatre *Maddox Dance Studio*
Benediction	Pastor William Arbaugh *Peace Lutheran Church*

proudly sponsored by
First Interstate Bank

The Flavel House is an exceptional example of Victorian Queen Anne architecture that has been faithfully preserved by the Clatsop County Historical Society and its many volunteers and contributors. It was constructed over 100 years ago by Captain George Flavel, a prominent seafarer on the west coast of North America and a distinguished citizen of Astoria.

The original gardens were considered to be among the finest in the northwest, and noted for their complementary beauty to the mansion itself. Restoration of the Rose Garden, which continues today, was initiated in 1983 by the Astoria Regatta Association and the Clatsop County Historical Society. Continued development and maintenence of the home and gardens depends on your generous help and support. It is through that support that we may carry on with the rich traditions like you have witnessed here today. We appreciate your contributions.



A reminder to attend the 9th Annual Oregon Dixieland Jazz Jubilee, at locations throughout the Greater Astoria area, October 11•12•13, 1991. A fun time with great music & good friends. Don't miss it!

for further information please contact:
The Clatsop County Historical Society
1618 Exchange • Astoria, Oregon 97103
(503) 325-2203